

not apologize to readers of this journal for prefacing my remarks about the area by recognition of the fact that it takes men as well as ore deposits to make mines. To the prospectors who located the claims and to those who are developing the deposits the people of Ontario owe more than they realize.

The Wasapika Area.

The area which I visited, and which I am here calling the Wasapika gold area, is a part of West Shining Tree area. The Wasapika property is south of Michikawakenda (nice little pickerel) lake. The Churchill is west of the south end of the lake. The Westree, formerly known as the Caswell, adjoins the Wasapika on the east end and extends north across Upper Wasapika lake, which is fed by the waters from Michikawakenda lake. The water runs east of Upper Wasapika lake to Wasapika Lake—an expansion of the west branch of Montreal river. The Atlas property is at the south end of Wasapika lake, and from its rocky promontory one may look across Wasapika lake and down the Montreal river. A short distance up the river, and on the east bank, is the Bennett property. The Adair property is south of the Wasapika and the Foisey is further south. The location of all the properties mentioned is shown on the accompanying sketch map.

Means of Access.

To get within 25 miles of the Wasapika area is an easy matter. The Canadian National Railway runs north-easterly across the country at that distance. The most used stopping place is at Westree, formerly known as Kashbaw. It is at present only a flag station; but will doubtless be soon a regular stop. Quite recently the need of improving service has been recognized by the placing of an agent at Westree station. Trains leaving Toronto at 9.15 p.m. reach Westree about 10 o'clock the following morning. Returning you leave Westree about 3 a.m., arriving in Toronto about 4.30 p.m. the same day. These trains run three days a week, leaving Toronto Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

From Westree to Wasapika there is a good water route, on which motors of the Evinrude type are advantageously used. From Ruel there is another good water route. A day's journey by water brings you from the railway to Wasapika mine. The portages are short and well cut out. It is a comparatively easy canoe route, and, by use of motors, it affords access to the gold area without any great hardship. It is a roundabout route, however, and double the length of the road which runs in a fairly direct line from Westree to Wasapika mine. At present the river is blocked with logs near Westree, but this condition of affairs need not be tolerated for long.

In less comfort, but with a saving of time, one may reach Wasapika by road. At present wagons are used on this road for half the distance, but for the remainder the road is usable only in winter. The Government now has a party of workmen improving the road near Westree, and it is understood that an effort will be made to make the road usable for its whole length this summer. Attention is at present being directed to improving the first half. This is much to be desired, but there should also be now at work the second half of the road another party of workmen. Otherwise it will be impossible to take in any heavy freight during the summer. I am advised that this part of the road will receive attention very soon.

The present method of getting in supplies is to use the road for half the distance, and use the water routes for the other half. At the halfway, a stopping place where meals and prospectors' supplies can be obtained has been established by Mr. Borland, of Toronto. Freight is carried on wagons to the halfway by freighters, whose charge is about \$1.00 per cwt. From the halfway to the mines the various companies bring their supplies by motor boats and canoes.

On the water route to Wasapika, the lake which has given the name West Shining Tree to the district, is crossed. Here is another stopping place, the West Shining Tree hotel, run by Mr. Cosineau. Mr. Cosineau's place is also convenient for those who use the road from Halfway to Wasapika. Few use the road in summer time, however, except as a trail. West Shining Tree lake is a large one, with numerous islands; quite picturesque, with numerous rock outcrops exposed here and there along the wooded shores.

In the vicinity of West Shining Tree lake there have been several gold discoveries made. I did not visit the properties, however, and know them only by hearsay. It is understood that some work will be done on at least one of the properties this year.

Leaving West Shining Tree Lake, we followed a little stream for a few miles, then walking over a well-cut portage, crossing a small lake, walking over a second portage, and then taking the boat down another small stream, we reach Okawakenda (Big Pickerel) lake, and thence Michikawakenda Lake and the Wasapika mine.

The character of the country traversed is well indicated by the accompanying photographs, and I need not describe it at length here.

The Wasapika Gold Mine.

At the Wasapika mine there has been installed since my last visit a plant well suited for development work. The shaft is being sunk in the hanging wall, a short distance west of the outcrop of the Ribble vein. The rock coming from the shaft is fine grained, grey colored and somewhat schistose. It is well mineralized with pyrite. It contains much fine grained carbonate mineral, probably a calcium-magnesium-iron carbonate, and sericite. White quartz is encountered here and there in the shaft. I must more carefully study the rocks and ores before venturing to describe them fully; but from my observations I have no hesitation in saying that the formation is favorable for gold deposits, and there may well be a large body of ore in the hanging wall of the Ribble vein. Further geological examination and sampling must be done as development proceeds. I regard the results so far obtained as very encouraging. The shaft is an advantageous position for the continuance of development work. A capable superintendent, Martin Hassett, is in charge of operations. If nature has been kind and has sprinkled enough gold in the hanging wall the Wasapika will be one of Ontario's big gold mines. It would be foolish to say that the gold is there in sufficient quantity. The development work is being done with the object of finding out whether that is the case, as well as to test at depth the Ribble vein itself.

Just here it might be well to distinguish between veins and ore deposits. The quartz veins in the Wasapika area are very narrow—a foot or two is a good width. The ore deposits are, however, not all vein quartz; but largely silicated rock. The ore deposits,